We will now take up the Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Amendment Bill, 2005. If anybody wants to speak, please give you names now.

THE IMMIGRATION (CARRIERS' LIABILITY) AMENDMENT BILL, 2005

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): Sir, I move:

That the Bill to amend the Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Act, 2000, be taken into consideration.

Sir, the Act places on carriers' the liability in respect of foreigners brought by them in contravention of the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920 and the Rules made thereunder. The necessary of the new legislation was felt because a large number of passengers at the major international airports were found to be coming without valid travel documents, creating problems for immigration authorities. It was observed that carriers, airlines, etc. did not exercise proper checks of travel documents before allowing passengers to board planes in places outside India. It was, therefore, considered necessary to place statutory responsibility on carriers, airlines, etc. bringing passengers not in possession of valid travel documents by imposing financial liability on them to the tune of one lakh of rupees per passenger brought by them without any valid travel documents, for which five exemptions have been given in respect of those who come without any valid travel documents.

One is where the passenger had arrived on a flight or a ship which, following departure, had been diverted to India for reasons beyond the control of the carriers. Another is where a foreigner has been exempted from the requirement of passport or visa by the Central Government. The third one is where the passengers are stowaways and the carrier is ready to take its passengers back. The fourth one is where a group of foreign tourists, consisting of four or more persons sponsored by recognised Indian travel agencies, arrive without visa, being authorised on collective visa, that is, permit issued to the whole group. The fifth one is where foreigners hold diplomatic or official passport and are exempt from the requirements of the visa. For these reasons, this amendment has been brought forward.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI FALI S. NARIMAN): We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: Sir, I move:

That the Bill be passed.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI FALI S. NARIMAN): The House is adjourned for lunch till 2.30 P.M.

The House then adjourned for lunch

at forty-five minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled, after lunch,

at thirty-two minutes past two of the clock,

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI FALI S. NARIMAN) in the Chair.

MESSAGES FROM LOK SABHA

(i) The Appropriation (Railways) No. 3 Bill, 2005

(ii) The Appropriation (Railways) No. 4 Bill, 2005

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha:

(I)

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the Appropriation (Railways) No. 3 Bill, 2005, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 11th August, 2005.

2. The Speaker has certified that this Bill is a Money Bill within the meaning of Article 110 of the Constitution of India."